In other departments such as the Anchal, Education, the Account Office and the Secretariat, more than 50 per cent. of the higher appointments were held by caste Hindus. The fight for entertainment and representation in the public service was not merely one for appointments alone. The question was intimately connected with the social, economical and political position of every community.

The Government have appointed a committee to formulate proposals for recruitment to public service. But the people have begun to lose faith in committees. The appointment of such committees was but a device to postpone decisions on the questions involved. If the Government were really intent upon accepting the principle of communal representation in the public service, there was no reason why they could not accept the scheme suggested by the public service committee of the Journalistic Association and also by the Catholic Congress in the memorial submitted by them to His Highness the Maha Raja.

Besides inequality of representation of certain communities, there was inequality of representation in regard to certain territorial regions. The attention of the Government was concentrated on the education and advancement of the people of south and central Travancore, while the people of north Travancore were neglected. There were educated men in north Travancore also. In making appointments, territorial representation also should be taken into account besides communal representation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Varghese, your suggestions will, no doubt, be considered by the Recruitment Committee; but Government have already declared that no percentage or block of appointments can be reserved for any community exclusively. It would not be fair; it would not be feasible. You may be sure that Government will do their best to see that the report of the Committee is presented as quickly as possible.

173. The subordinate service.

SRIMATI T. V. NARAYANI (*Nominated*) said that there was a long-standing complaint that the officers of Travancore were under-paid. But the complaint emanated from the high-paid officers. But really the pay that they were already getting was high in proportion to the revenues of the State. That was why the people were moving for the reduction of their pay. But in spite of these protests, several departments were newly reorganised and new appointments created thereby increasing the expenditure. These reorganisations were the result of the recommendations from time to time of the heads of departments and not the outcome of a fixed policy pursued by the Government in this respect. There were inequalities of pay in regard to officers of the same rank in different departments. The Munsiffs and Tahsildars were instances in point. The same disparity existed in the pay of the peons of the several departments. The peons in Travancore were under

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paid when compared with the peons in British India. The peons in the Postal and Anchal Departments were instances in point. The case of the low paid peons did not attract the notice of the authorities. Peons too had homes and families depending on them and they had no time to do other work and supplement their earnings from service. It was therefore imperative that the pay of the low paid subordinates should be enhanced. When the pay was insufficient, it was natural that the subordinates were tempted to become corrupt. The minimum pay of a Government servant should therefore be fixed at Rs. 10—15.

Next she spoke about the disparity in the pay of the subordinates in the different departments. In the Revenue Department, the peons in the Taluk and higher offices were paid Rs. 9—11 each, while the Pakuthi peons and L. R. M. peons were paid only Rs. 8 each. The latter were more hard worked than the former. This disparity should be removed as early as practicable.

The same disparity existed in th ower ranks of the superior service also. While the minimum pay of a vernacular school teacher was Rs. 15--18, the pay of the Pakuthi and L. R. M. Accountants who were better qualified and who had to deposit security was only Rs. 14. The subordinates of the Anchal, Registration, Excise and Judicial Departments who entered service with the Pakuthi Accountants were getting Rs. 20—30. The pay of the Accountants should therefore be revised and fixed at Rs. 15—20.

The Provertikars were the most heavily worked subordinates in the service. They had, besides their regular work of the Department, to attend to all sorts of miscellaneous work. The minimum pay of a Provertikar was Rs. 18 and the maximum Rs. 24. This was very low when compared to the work he had to turn out. Further, he was obliged to deposit a security also at a low rate of interest. The lowest subordinate of a Taluk Office who was not better qualified than a Provertikar was paid Rs. 20—30. This pay at least should be given to the Provertikars also. The question of enhancing the rate of interest on the security deposit furnished by them should also be considered.

The money required for meeting the additional expenditure on account of the revision of pay of the subordinates mentioned above could be found by abolishing unnecessary and superfluous appointments and by making substantial reduction in the sarlaries of high-paid officers.

Lastly, peons and clerks in all departments should be recruited from the depressed classes. If statistics be collected of all persons in the subordinate service most of them would be found to be caste Hindus. Such being the case, stringent orders should be issued to heads of departments to appoint only members of depressed classes in future vacancies of peons, etc. If this policy be pursued for some time to come, the disability that the depressed classes were now put to would be removed.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Srimati Narayani, Government have admitted that the pay of the peons needs revision. But, it is an unfortunate time to bring this matter up when cuts of pay are the order of the day; and the Government have actually ordered that the question of revision of pay should lie over. But, that is no reason why any hard case should not be considered. I shall see what can be done next year in the case of the peons who are specially low paid in the Revenue Department. That is a matter, of course, about which no promise can be made.

Your remarks about Provertikars will be enquired into. I shall see what can be done for them.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-58 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M on Monday, the 21st March 1932.

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